(b) if so, what is the magnitude of the manipulation and what steps Government have initiated to plug the nefarious activities;

(c) how many investment companies/companies/investors promoters/ business enterprises/real estate agencies/shipping companies have been black-listed; and

(d) what precautionary steps have been proposed to check the misuse of legitimate banking channels by these outfits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

**Loans to Agriculture and Small Scale Sector**

†1530. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual growth rate of loans given to agricultural, industrial and small scale sector by the public sector banks in the country upto October, 2006 has remained less than the annual growth rate of other sectors such as, retail loans, trade loans, real estate loans, etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of loans out of the total loans provided to all the above sectors during the year, 2005-06 and from April, 2006 to September, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In 2005-06 the credit flow to agriculture sector was Rs. 1,80,486 crore as against the disbursement in 2004-05 of Rs. 1,25,309 crore thereby registering a growth of 44%. Again, in the small scale sector the loan outstanding or Rs. 74,588 crore as on 18.3.2005 grew to Rs. 90,239 as on 31.3.2006 crore registering a growth of 21%. The outstanding loans in the retail portfolio-comprising housing loans, loans for consumer durables, credit card receivables, auto loans and other personal loans-of all banks *vis-a-vis* March, 2005 and 2006 registered a growth rate of 40.9% The details are as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

| Particluars | March 2005 | March 2006 |
|---|---|---|
| Housing Loan | 1,34,276 | 1,79,116 |
| Loans for consumer Durables | 3,810 | 4,469 |
| Credit Card Receivables | 8,405 | 12.434 |
| Auto Loans | 35,043 | 61,369 |
| Other Personal Loans | 85,077 | 1,18,351 |
| Total | 2,66,611 | 3,75,739 |

**Increase in prices of food grains due to futures trading**

†1531. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the statement of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce wherein the has attributed inordinate increase in prices of foodgrains to futures trading;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that two varieties of pulses have been restricted for trade under futures trading by Government in January, 2007; and

(c) if so, the details of the outcome from this restriction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Forward Market Commission (FMC), which is the Regulator for commodity futures markets under the provisions of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 *vide* letter dated 23.01.2007, has directed the three National Exchanges, namely (i) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., (ii) National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd. and (iii) National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd. to delist all contracts of tur and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.